

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 JOHANN 01165 171313Z

42

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 DODE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /082 W

----- 050608

P 171020Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4889

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1165

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MINE WORKERS STRIKE IN SOUTH AFRICA

1. SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER OF MINES AND LABOR AND MINISTER OF FINANCE MET WITH LEADERS OF THE MINE WORKERS UNION TODAY IN AN UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO RESOLVE DISPUTE OVER ISSUE OF FIVE-DAY WEEK WHICH COULD RESULT IN STRIKE ON THE MINES BY UNION MEMBERS. EFFORT BY MINISTERS FOLLOWS SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN UNION AND CHAMBER OF MINES ON ISSUE WHICH PROVED ABORTIVE. STRIKE VOTE BY UNION IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD WITHIN TEN DAYS.

2. RECENT ERUPTION OF DISPUTE IS CULMINATION OF LONG DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CHAMBER AND VARIOUS MINE UNIONS GOING BACK OVER AT LEAST ONE YEAR. DURING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS LAST YEAR, CHAMBER AND VARIOUS UNIONS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ON A FIVE DAY WEEK
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 JOHANN 01165 171313Z

FOR MINES WITH DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT PRIOR TO END OF THE ONE

YEAR CONTRACT PERIOD. MINE WORKERS UNION, WHICH IS COMPOSED OF ACTUAL UNDERGROUND MINERS, WAS UNION PRESSING MOST STRONGLY FOR FIVE DAY WEEK. OTHER UNIONS WERE LESS ANXIOUS OVER IMPLEMENTATION OF IDEA AND THE LATTER HAVE FINALLY OPTED TO FOREGO OBVIOUS ADVANTAGES BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS RELATED TO SHIFT WORK, BONUSES AND OTHER ISSUES. ONCE OTHER UNIONS INDICATED THEY NO LONGER WISHED TO HAVE FIVE DAY WEEK, CHAMBER TOOK POSITION IT IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT FOR ONLY PART OF WORKFORCE, MINE WORKERS, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO PRESS ISSUE FOR THEIR MEMBERS.

3. SOUTH AFRICAN LAW PRECLUDES STRIKE UNTIL OTHER REMEDIES HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED BUT PROVIDES FOR ARBITRATION ONLY IF BOTH SIDES TO DISPUTE AGREE. THUS FAR, MINE WORKERS HAVE REFUSED TO AGREE TO ARBITRATION. IF THEY CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THIS POSITION, STRIKE SEEMS INEVITABLE. BECAUSE OF CRUCIAL POSITION OF MINERS IN MINE OPERATION, SUCH A STRIKE COULD RESULT IN CLOSURE OF MINES WITH ALL THE EVIDENT ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS THIS WOULD INVOLVE.

4. ALL UNIONS INVOLVED IN DISPUTE ARE WHITE AS THERE ARE NO BLACK UNIONS ON MINES.

5. CONSULATE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS AND REPORT ACCORDINGLY.
JOHNSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, MINING INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JOHANN01165
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760276-0660
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760748/aaaabpla.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2005 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE MINE WORKERS STRIKE IN SOUTH AFRICA
TAGS: ELAB, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006